

REMARKS

Claims 1-24 are all the claims presently pending in the application. The claims have been amended for adaptation to local practice. .

It is noted that the claim amendments are made only for more particularly pointing out the invention, and not for distinguishing the invention over the prior art, narrowing the claims or for any statutory requirements of patentability. Further, Applicant specifically states that no amendment to any claim herein should be construed as a disclaimer of any interest in or right to an equivalent of any element or feature of the amended claim.

Claims 3 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §1.112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Applicant believes that the above claim amendments address the Examiner's concerns and respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Applicant understands that all claims are allowable over the prior art of record, once this rejection and the Examiner's objections are overcome.

FORMAL MATTERS AND CONCLUSION

In response to Examiner's objections, the claims and abstract have been amended in a manner believed fully responsive to all points raised by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that claims 1-24, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct over the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview.

S/N: 10/000,153
Attorney Docket: 2000-369354US (UDA.010)
NEC File: 369354/00

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any deficiency in fees or to credit any overpayment in fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-0481.

Respectfully Submitted,

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